Outstanding Telephone Bills

1034. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country against whom telephone bills are outstanding, State-wise;

(b) the amount outstanding against the subscribers till January, 1997;

(c) whether any dues are outstanding against Ex. M.Ps;

(d) if so, the details thereof; alongwith the amount outstanding against each Ex. M.P.;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive policy to recover the outstanding amount;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The required information up to 31.1.97 has been called for from the units and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) to (g) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continous process and there are established procedure for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. Efforts are made to settle the billing disputes/Court cases speedily. Besides recovery is also pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

Gauge Conversion

1035. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to link the circuit comprising Bikaner, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Nagaur and Barmer cities of Rajasthan with Broad gauge line from Delhi;

(b) if so, the cities where the work of laying broad gauge line has been started in the first phase; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gauge conversion has been completed from Bikaner-Nagaur-Merta Road, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer and Merta Road-Jaipur-Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Post Offices in Assam

1036. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/recommendations received from Assam for opening Post Offices/Branch Post Offices; and

(b) the places where new Post Offices/Branch Post Offices are proposed to be established in Assam during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of proposals/ recommendations received from Assam Postal Circle for opening Post Offices/Branch Post Offices during the current Five Year Plan is as under :

Departmental Sub Post Offices	*Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices*
24	69

During the 8th Five Year Plan period, so far 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 63 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in Assam Circle.

(b) Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Circle-wise under Annual Plans and are finalised on year to year basis.

Foreign Investment in Aviation Sector

1037. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI RAM NAIK :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised or propose to finalise its policy regarding foreign investment and entry of foreign airlines/airport companies/private sector in the domestic aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which foreign investment has been allowed or proposed to be allowed;

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and